

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00989 190300 Z

16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

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R 182046 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6304

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652 : N/ A

TAGS: TO, NI, PFOR, XY, EGEN

SUBJ: CEAO PRESIDENT DIORI' S VISIT COINCIDES WITH TOGOLESE-
NIGERIAN ECONOMIC TALKS

REF: LOME 9 81 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NIGERIAN DELEGATION, LED BY N. A. OKUBOYEJO, SEC GEN
OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION, BEGAN
MEETING WITH GOT OFFICIALS 17 MAY TO FORMULATE WAYS AND MEANS
OF CREATING A WORKING ECONOMIC COMMUNITY BASED ON EYADEMA- GOWON
AGREEMENT LAST MAY. FACT THAT MEETING HASTILY CALLED SHORTLY
BEFORE CEAO PRESIDENT DIORI ARRIVED LOME TO SOLICIT SUPPORT
FOR HIS ORGANIZATION APPEARS AS DELIBERATE EFFORT ON PART
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TOGOLESE AND NIGERANS TO UNDERMINE DIORI MISSION.

1. IN MAY 18, 1973 ARTICLE, TOGO PRESSE REVIEWED EVENTS LEADING TO CURRENT NIGERIAN- TOGOLESE TALKS AND NOTED THAT GOT HAD TRANSMITTED TO FMG IN SEPTEMBER 1972 A DETAILED PROPOSAL AIMED AT PUTTING EMBRYONIC COMMUNITY INTO EFFECT. REFERRING TO THIS PROPOSAL, TOGOLESE MINISTER OF FINANCE, JEAN TEVI, EXPRESSED HOPE, AT OPENING SESSION OF MEETING, THAT THE RELATIVELY LONG PERIOD BETWEEN DATE OF TRANSMISSION OF TOGOLESE NOTE AND PRESENT DISCUSSIONS WILL HAVE ALLOWED NIGERIANS AMPLE TIME TO REFLECT ON PRINCIPLES WHICH WERE BASIC TO THE REALIZATION OF INITIAL AGREEMENT. TEVI ADDED HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE SUCH MEETINGS IN FUTURE IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE CREATION OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND STRESSED DESIRE FOR RAPID PROGRESS TOWARDS THAT END.

2. ACCORDING TOGO- PRESSE, OKUBOYEJO, RESPONDING TO TEVI'S REMARKS, ASSURED TOGOLESE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ENVISAGED BY NIGERIAN AND TOGOLESE LEADERS LASY YEAR. OKUBOYEJO TERMED GOT SEPTEMBER PROPOSAL " EXCELLENT", BUT IN NEED OF MORE PRECISE LANGUAGE IN SUCH MATTERS AS TRAFFIC OF PERSONS AND GOODS AND COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFFS. HE SAID FMG HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES TO ASCERTAIN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN GOT- FMG COMMUNITY AND INDICATED THAT WHILE GHANA AND DAHOMEY WERE SHOWING INTEREST, OTHERS (UNSPECIFIED) ARE MORE RETICENT. HE ADDED THAT TERE WERE THOSE (AGAIN UNSPECIFIED) WHO WOULD PREFER AN ENSEMBLE COVERING ONLY CERTAIN FIELDS OF ACTIVITY SUCH AS COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AND AGRICULTURE. HE CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT COUNTRIES WHICH HAD SHOWN THEMSELVES FAVORABLE TO PROJECT WOULD BE ASSOCIATED FROM THE START IN DRAFTING FINAL TEXT OF TREATY SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE FACED WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI.

3. NIGERIEN PRESIDENT DIORI, IN CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT CEAO, ARRIVED LOME FROM COTONOU MORNING MAY 18 ON THIRD STOP OF ROUND OF VISITS TO NIGERIA, DAHOMEY, TOGO AND ACCRA. AT AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HIS VISIT TO LOME, AS TO THE OTHER CAPITALS, CONCERNED THE EVENTUAL ENLARGEMENT OF THE CEAO. HE MADE THE POINT THAT A SYSTEM MUST BE FOUND IN WHICH ALL STATES CAN DEVELOP TO THEIR MAXIMUM AND THAT " WE MUST DEVELOP INFRASTRUCTURES FOR THE FREE CIRCULATION OF PERSONS AND GOODS." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LOME 00989 190300 Z

DIORI TO SPEND 24 HOURS IN LOME DURING WHICH WORKING SESSIONS WITH EYADEMA SCHEDULED.

4. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE HARD TO BELIEVE HASTILY CALLED TALKS (FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAYS THEY WERE CONVOKED ON THREE OR FOUR DAYS NOTICE) HAD ANY LESS PURPOSE THAN TO UNDERCUT DIORI'S EFFORT

TO EXPLAIN NEED FOR A FRANCOPHONE CEAO WHICH DOES NOT PROVIDE
FOR EARLY ANGLOPHONE AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP. OKUBOYEJO' S ALLUSION
TO A " FAIT ACCOMPLI" IS OBVIOUS CRITICISM OF CREATION OF CEAO
WITHOUT ANGLOPHONE PARTICIPATION.
DICKINSON

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